



GATE

Responding to
Anti-Gender Opposition

Masen Davis
Funders Concerned About AIDS

AMSTERDAM

FAST-TRACK CITIES 2023

September 25-27, 2023 | RAI Amsterdam Convention Center

✘ City of
✘ Amsterdam

✘ GGD
✘ Amsterdam

IAFAC
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF PROVIDERS OF AIDS CARE

FAST-TRACK CITIES
INSTITUTE

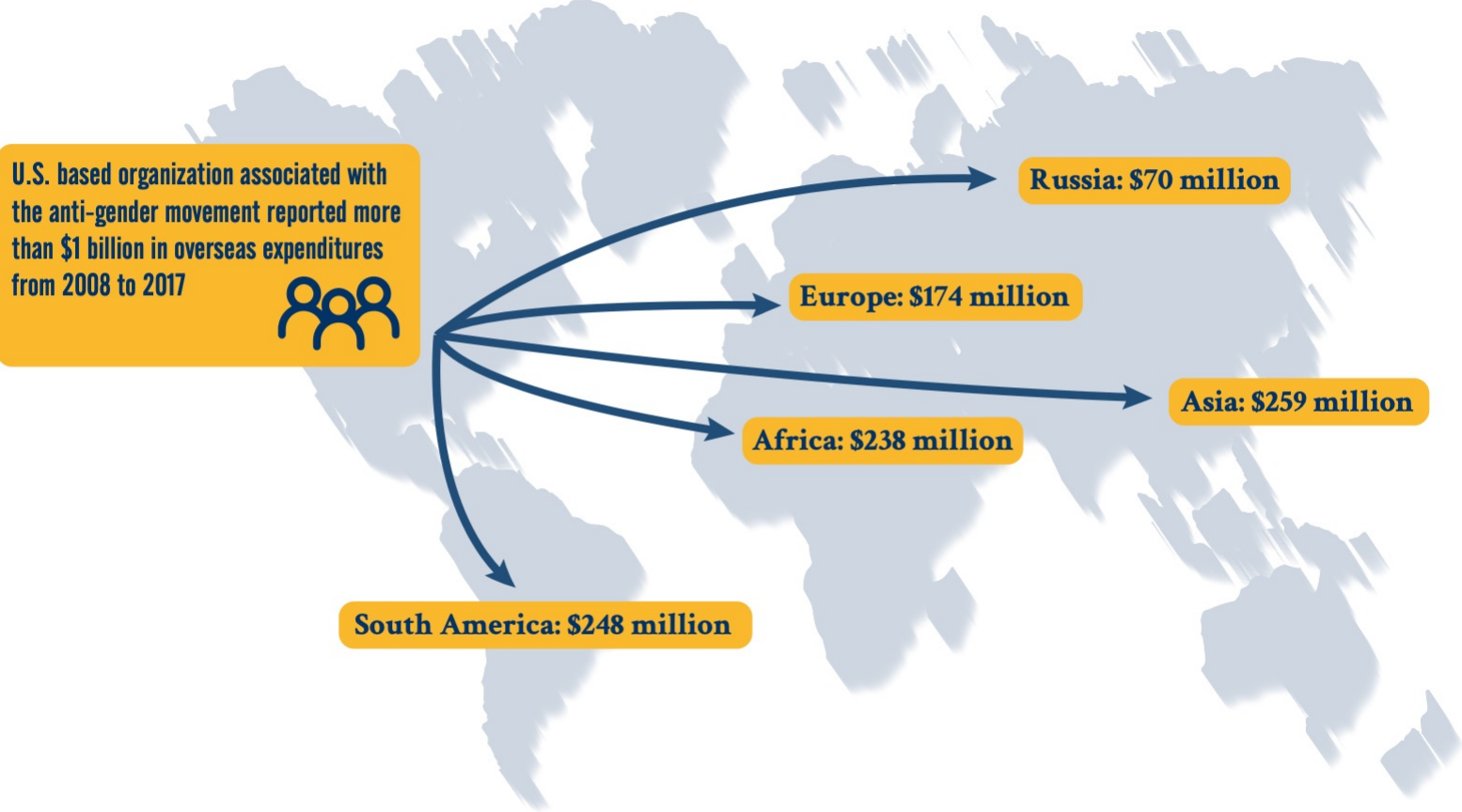
Did You Know?

Between 2008-2017...

- U.S.-based "anti-gender" organizations reported \$6.2 billion of revenue – **3x the funding granted to LGBTI organisations worldwide**
- At least \$1 billion of funding was sent from the U.S. to anti-gender actors in other countries

In the past decade, at least \$40 million aid-funded projects from the U.S. *and European governments* went to anti-LGBT groups in Uganda alone (*including grants coded as supporting "gender equality"*)





From MEET THE MOMENT: A Call for Progressive Philanthropic Response to the Anti-Gender Movement (© Global Philanthropy Project, 2000)



Some Groups to Watch

- Alliance Defending Freedom and Alliance Defending Freedom International
- The Billy Graham Evangelical Association
- Cato Institute
- CitizenGO
- Family Watch International and Empowered Youth Coalition
- Heritage Foundation
- The World Congress of Families and International Organization for the Family

Recommendations

- 1. Discover.** The different actors behind anti-LGBTI, anti-SRHR, and anti-gender movement shifts and change all the time. Therefore, we must be proactive with a research agenda that continually assesses the landscape and identifies current and emerging organizations involved in the anti-LGBTQI movement.
- 2. Disarm.** With research in hand, we will be better prepared to educate policymakers on the anti-gender campaign and the players involved.
- 3. Dislocate.** Many of these actors are seeking legitimacy near political power. By highlighting their background as hate groups, they can be rejected from high-level positions.
- 4. De-monetize.** A great deal of public money is going to the wrong organizations. We need to have specific efforts to stop funding from going in harmful directions.
- 5. Defend.** We need to ask ourselves, are human rights as well defended as we think they are? We need to defend individuals on the front lines of these attacks and proactively strengthen legal protections.



Recommendations for Donors

- **Fund pre-emptively.** Don't wait for an emergency. We must engage and fund earlier to stop the contagion of hate.
- **Be flexible.** Provide access to long-term, flexible, unrestricted support. Allow for reallocation and restructuring without layers of bureaucracy and provide long-term funding.
- **Support interventions** needed by groups most affected by anti-gender attacks, such as narrative change, network development, legal and policy advocacy, safety, healthcare, and basic services
- **Maintain/increase support** for trans-led organizations and other groups being targeted by anti-gender actors. You can't assume AGM-specific grants will go to the communities most impacted!
- **Fund holistically.** Fund those who can shield activists from attacks and support issues like wellness and self-care that will help the community face these issues.
- **Assess your current grantees.** Progressive grants can sometimes be used to fuel the opposition, as grantees are weaponized against their own funders.
- **Be advocates.** We must use our voices to convince governments and the public to push back on unhealthy, oppressive laws.



FAST-TRACK CITIES 2023

Aspect	How Gender-Restrictive Organizations tend to Fund	How Gender Justice and Other Progressive Organizations tend to Fund
Time-frame	Long-term (40-50 years)	Short-term projects (1-5 years)
Funding Mechanisms	Block grants, endowments, trust funds	Project-based grants, capacity building, service procurement
Distribution of Funds	Duplication as a worldmaking strategy. Allows for several organizations to be working on the same thing at the same time; reinforces key messages in different contexts and through different media; contributes to long-term development of the gender-restrictive organizational ecosystem	Duplication as wasteful. Organizations must differentiate themselves from others; spreads money thinly, narrowing scope and diminishing impact of work; may promote competition instead of collaboration
Funding Constraints	Few constraints. Freedom to decide how to spend the money; encourages risk-taking and provides rapid response capabilities, flexibility and adaptability	Project-based, deliverable-driven and impact-evaluation-contingent. Cumbersome reporting procedures to donors; little flexibility, stymies creativity because it has little room for failure
Use of the Funds	Worldmaking strategies. Career development, cohorts of policymakers and analysts, media organizations, funding scholars to conceptualize and frame key issues	Reactive strategies. Expenses and personnel tied to specific projects and service provision programs, narrow set of deliverables
Issues Funded	Interconnected, worldmaking issues. Broad campaigns and slogans (e.g., “gender ideology”) that simultaneously engage with all or several issues considered key for their worldview, including women’s, children’s and LGBT rights, as well as anti-democracy efforts and environmental deregulation	Specialized and targeted funding that creates silos and makes cross-issue, cross-sectoral, transnational, and intersectional collaboration difficult

From Manufacturing Moral Panic: Weaponizing Children to Undermine Gender Justice and Human Rights (Elevate Children Funders Group & GPP, March 2021)

